

8. CAPSULE SUMMARY CT-1149

The Gruitt barn is located on Huntingtown road, approximately one-tenth of a mile from its intersection with Mill Branch road. It is associated with the historic house known as Spittle Hall. There are no other nearby barns connected with this property. The barn measures forty by twenty-four feet and has a cross-axial plan. The materials used include circular sawn lumber and fully mature machine cut nails, dating the barn to the period between ca. 1860 and 1890. There is a fourteen foot wide original shed on the south side of the barn. The unusual roof is of stamped tin with a decorative design. The usage of wide closely-spaced vertical boards for siding has been determined to be relatively frequent for nineteenth-century barns, and may indicate a different approach to ventilation.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1149

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attachment.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No CT-1149

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Lower Marlboro, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tora williamsen-Berry

c/p Calvert County-Historic District Commission

organization Dept. of Planning and Zoning date June 30, 1990

street & number Courthouse telephone 535-1600

city or town Prince Frederick state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Gruitt Barn

2. Location

street & number 5750 Huntingtown Rd. ___ not for publication

city, town Huntingtown ___ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			___ private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. Don Gruitt

street & number 5750 Huntingtown Rd. telephone no.: 257-6971

city, town Huntingtown state and zip code MD 20639

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

te ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1149

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☒ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Attachment.

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1149

The Gruitt barn is located on Huntingtown road, approximately one-tenth of a mile from its intersection with Mill Branch road. It is associated with the historic house known as Spittle Hall. There are no other nearby barns connected with this property. The barn measures forty by twenty-four feet and has a cross-axial plan. The materials used include circular sawn lumber and fully mature machine cut nails, dating the barn to the period between ca. 1860 and 1890. There is a fourteen foot wide shed on the south side of the barn.

The barn is divided into five eight foot wide bays. There are eight foot wide double doors centered along its north facade, and on the east and west gable ends. The north door on the barn is older than the other doors (possible wrought nails in its weatherboarding). It may have been re-used from an earlier barn. The interior south wall has no evidence of a doorway. Wooden blocks support the frame. The sills are circular sawn and measure eight by ten inches. The posts are circular sawn. The door and corner posts measure eight by eight inches, the internal posts measure six by eight inches. The down braces are circular sawn, and measure four by eight inches. The cross sills are hand hewn and pit sawn, and measure eight and one half by ten and three-quarters inches. Horizontal nailing rails are circular sawn and measure three and three-quarters by four inches. Fully mature machine cut nails are used to join all timbers.

Vertical wall siding with some occasional ventilation doors covers the exterior. The second story has doors above the barn, on the south and west sides. The door on the north side of the barn is a two story door. Metal roofing covers the entire barn. This metal roof consists of stamped tin with a decorative design. Rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. Posts are both half-lapped and joined via mortise and tenon with trunnels to the top plate. There are windbraces on all four diagonals and v-braces over each doorway of the facades. Four collars and king posts support the roof. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty inches vertical distance. There are peeled log poles down the central axis, separated by four feet width. There is a horizontal screw type tobacco prize and a few remaining hogsheds inside the barn.

It appears that the barn and shed are contemporary, as there is no evidence of a doorway or siding along the south wall of the barn.

There is one eight foot wide double doorway centered along the south facade of the shed. It is possible that there was once a track doorway on the west side of the shed, as there are many nail holes in the siding, that form the pattern of a large door, but this cannot be confirmed. The shed is supported on concrete that

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1149 (CONTINUED)

has all but sunk entirely into the ground below. The materials in the shed are circular sawn and attached with cut nails. The top plate on the north side is a re-used older piece (it has stud mortises on two foot centers). Posts are mortise and tenon with trunnels. Portions of the sill are replacements. Much of the siding is of wide vertical boards thirteen inches wide. This type of siding is extant on the east and south sides. The siding on the north side is narrow replacement siding. There is a feeding bin in the south shed, and a few horizontal nailed boards close off this section. These elements indicate that this portion of the shed was used as a stable.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1149

This barn is architecturally significant for several reasons. It is associated with the historic property known as Spittle Hall. The measurements and plan of the barn are the same as those most typical of early nineteenth century barns. However, the circular sawn lumber used in the construction of this barn, combined with the fully mature machine-cut nails, date it to the mid-late nineteenth century, after the introduction of a saw mill to the county ca. 1860, and prior to the use of wire nails. The mortise and tenon joinery substantiates this date. This is the only barn recorded by this survey that has a stamped tin roof. This roof may allow the barn to be dated very specifically.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historical Period theme(s): ca. 1860-; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert
Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: ca. 1860-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

This barn has not changed significantly over the years since it was built. The stamped tin metal roof is original, as is the south shed. The barn has deteriorated significantly, and is no longer being maintained. A few additions, such as the replacement sill in the shed, and other replacements are among its few modification. It is now used solely for storage.

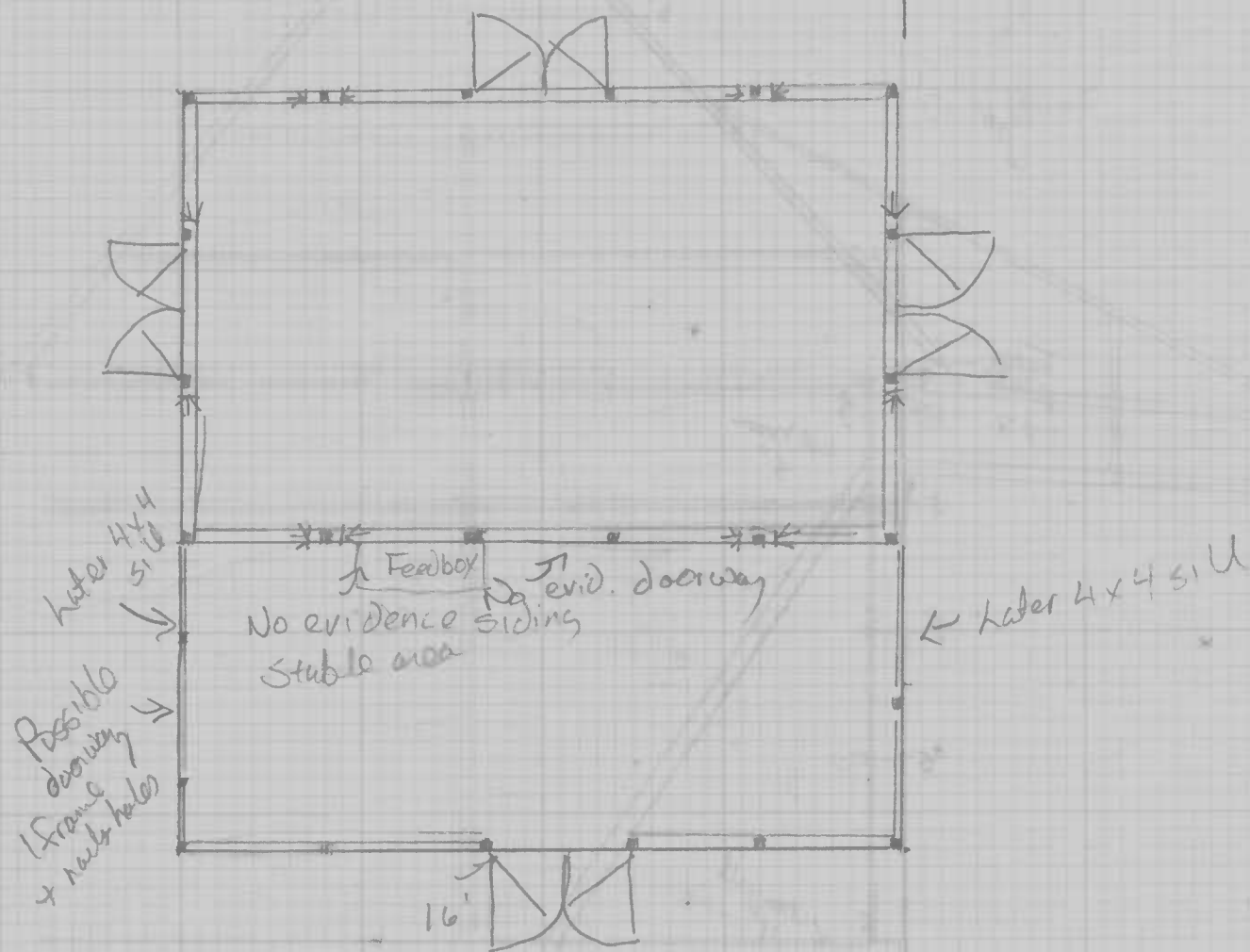
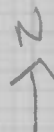
#2122 - Gruitt Barn. INTENSIVE LEVEL

wood blocks supports. Posts circular sawn cut nails eight by eight inches, six by eight interior posts. Down braces circ. sawn, cut nails, four by eight inches. Cross sills hand hewn and pit sawn, eight and one half by ten and three-quarters inches. Horizontal nailing rails circular sawn, cut nails three and three-quarters by four inches. Vertical wall siding with some doors. Second story doors above barn, doors on S, 2. Door on north side is a two story door. Metal roofing covers the barn. This metal roof is of stamped tin with a decorative design. The shed section is covered with corrugated metal roof. Rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. Posts are half-lapped and mortise and tenon with trunnels to the top plate. There are windbraces on all four diagonal and in V over each doorway of the facade. Four collars and king posts support the roof. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty inches vertical distance. There are peeled log poles down the central axis. There is a horizontal prize and remaining hogshead inside the barn.

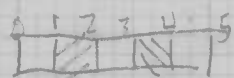
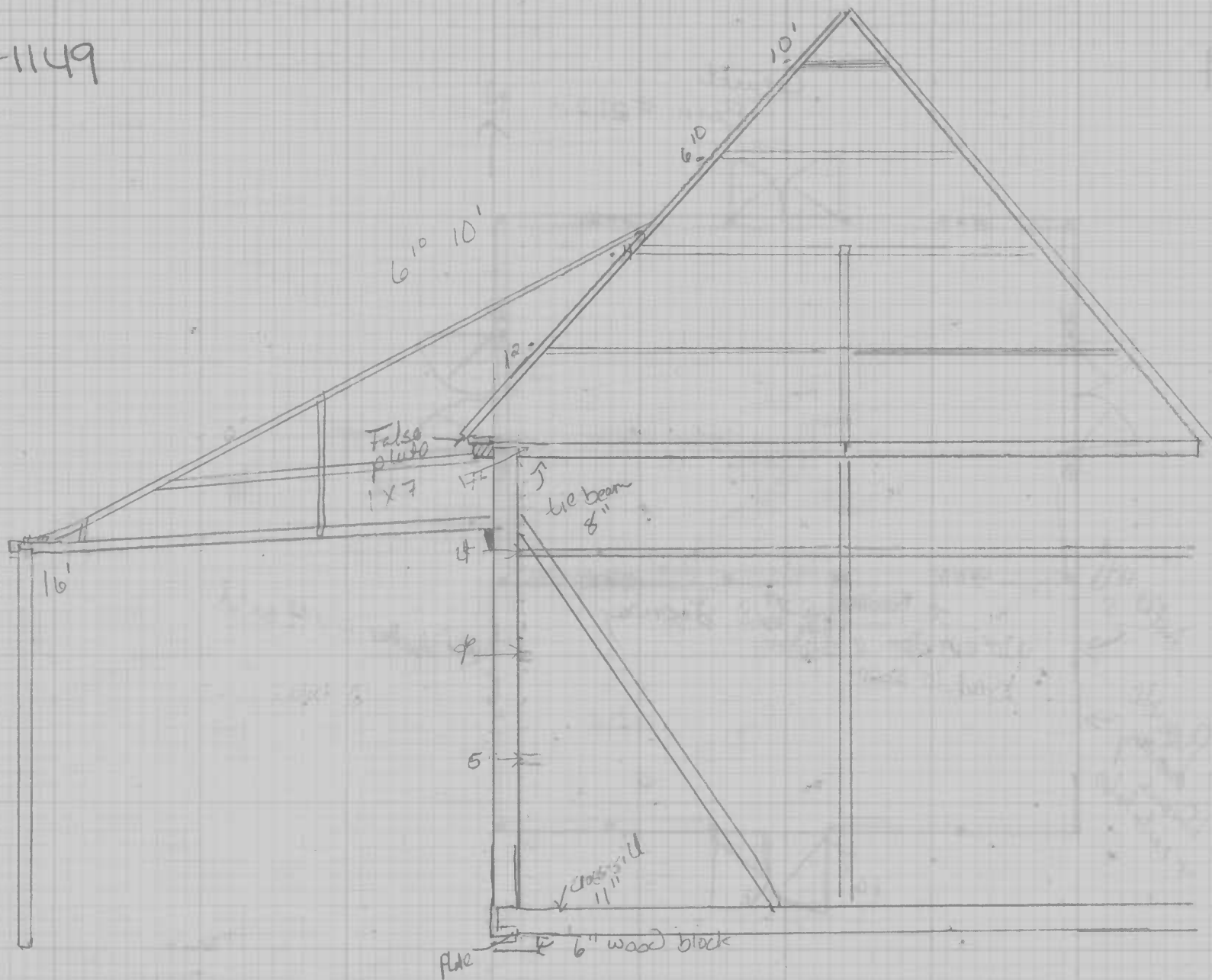
The shed is supported on concrete that has all but disappeared. The materials in the shed are circular sawn and attached with cut nails. The top plate on the north side is a re-used older piece (has stud mortises on two foot centers). The siding on the north side is a narrow replacement. Posts are mortise and tenon. Most of the siding is vertical wide boards thirteen inches wide on east side, above doorway on south side. Feeding bin in south shed, boards closing it off indicated stable use of this shed. Barn and shed are contemporary. North door on barn older than other doors (possible wrought nails in its weatherboarding). Tobacco curing and stabling fulfilled in this barn.

CT-1149

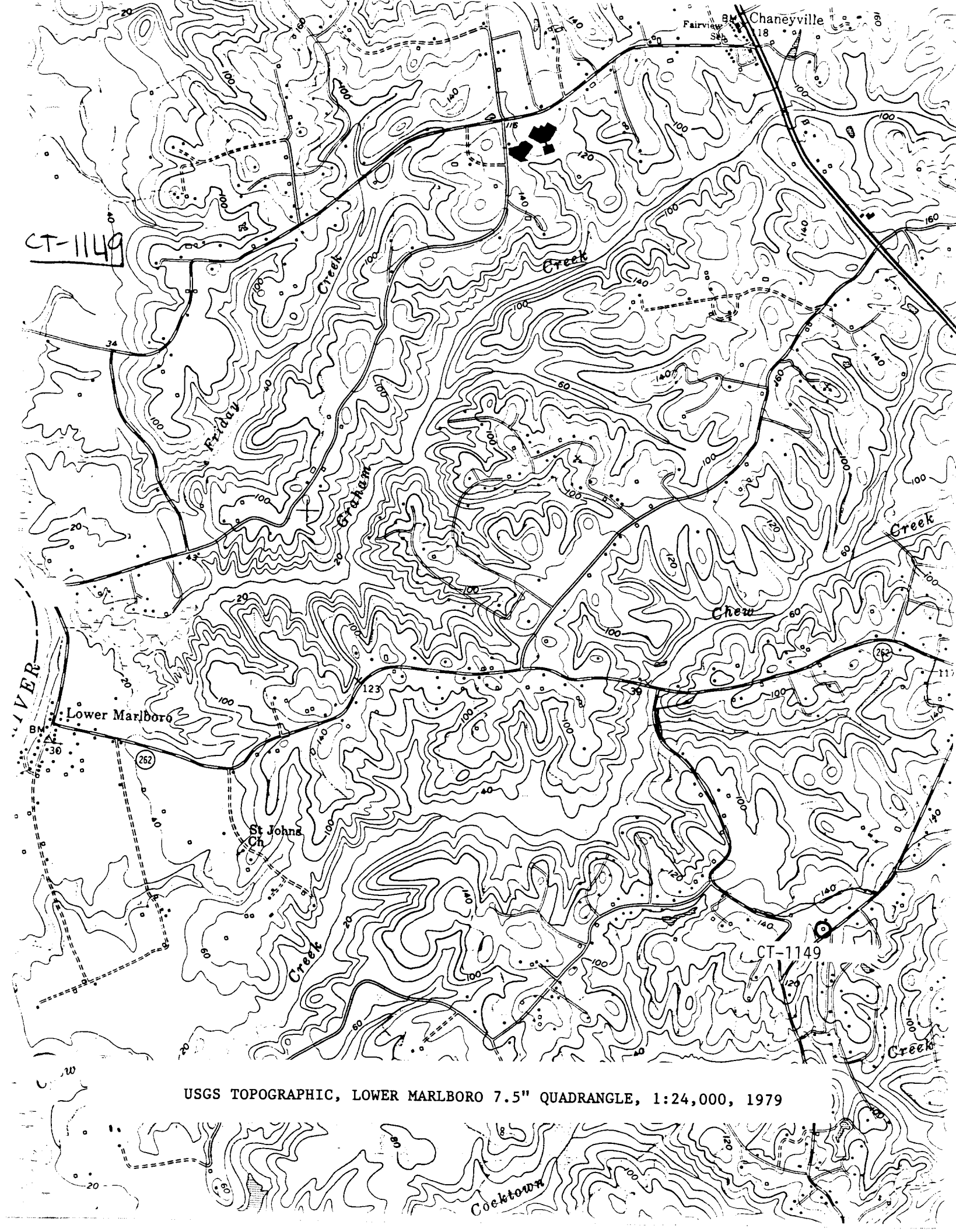
Gruntl
Barn #2122



CT-1149



Section at cross-sill



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, LOWER MARLBORO 7.5" QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1979



ET- 1149

GRUITT, BARN

HOLLING TOWN

TORA L. WILLIAMSEN

NORTH WEST

MAY 1990